(c) No Secretary to the Government of India has obtained such employment/ consultancy with UNICEF recently.

(d) In view of (c) above, this question does not arise.

(e) Recently instructions as mentioned in reply to part (a) above, have been issued, These instructions categorically reiterate the Government's policy, that its officers should not lobby for international assignments.

Hike in the prices and shortage of essential drugs

1695. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appeared in Business and Political observer dated 13th July, 1991 to the effect that the cost of bulk drugs will rise along with retail prices apart from shortage of essential drugs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a large number of price revision applications are pending with Government; and

(c) whether Government would associate consumer and public Health voluntary groups in any changes in the price structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes sir.

(b) Consideration of price revision applications is an ongoing process. Recently the associations of the Drug Industry have represented to the Government seeking across the board 25 per cent escalation in the prices of bulk drugs and formulations. This is in the backgrouud of rise in the cost of production of bulk drugs and formulations owing to the recent adjustment of the exchange rate of Indian Rupee against foreign currencies and other increase in costs.

(c) Government is aware of the views of consumer and public health voluntary groups.

Drugs needed for National Health Programmes

1696. SHRI NARAYAN KAR:
DR. R. K. PODDAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received representations against the omissions of National Health Programmes and drugs needed for these programmes under Category-I of Drugs Price Control Order;

(b) if so, the number of representations received upto 30th June, 1991 and what action has been taken so far; and

(c) what is the present position and by when rectification would be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) to (c) A large number of representations for inclusion/exclusion of drugs from price control including inclusion of more drugs under Category I of the DPCO, 1987, have been received, mostly from the Members of Parliament, after the announcement of list of price controlled drugs. These are under examination of the Government.

Separate ration cards for buying sugar

1697. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:
SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI:

Will the PRIME MINSTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering issuing of separate ration cards to those who buy only sugar from fair price shops and not other items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that due to poor quality of rice and wheat available at fair price shops, the general public are reluctant to buy these items from the fair price shops;